

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action dated June 17, 2008 and the references cited therein. Claims 1-10 and 12-14 are pending in the Application. Applicant has amended claims 1-9 as discussed below. Claims 12-14 are new and claim 11 is cancelled. No new matter has been added by way of the amended or new claims.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office Action rejects claim 1 and possibly claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Publication 2002/0070910 (Fujieda). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Fujieda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,128,662 (Failla). Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that the subject matter of claims 2-6, 9 and possibly claim 10 is allowable.

Discussion of the Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the claimed device includes an “extension structure to facilitate extending the display to the second position” and to include recitation of “the extension structure comprises means for generating an extending force acting in an opposite direction with respect to a force driving a display towards the first position upon a transition towards the second position, ... to counteract a tendency of the display to return by itself from the second position to the first position by balancing, in the second position, the extending force and the force driving a display towards the first position when in the second position.” The basis for Applicant’s amendment is found, for example, beginning on page 2, line 31 of the specification. Applicant has further generally amended the claims to replace recitation of “characterized in that” with “wherein” to conform the claims to U.S. claim practice and to otherwise clarify the meaning of the claims.

New claim 12 recites that the display may be present in a third position and is supported by the the specification beginning at page 2, line 13. New claim 13 recites that the means for generating opposing forces comprises elastic means which is supported at, for example, page 2, line 31 of the specification. New claim 14 recites that “the display is provided with support means comprising a foldable arm which arm is foldable around a first hinging point and can be folded along the shaft when the display is in the first position.” The

subject matter of claim 14 was originally recited in claim 1, but has been cancelled from claim 1 in view of new dependent claim 14.

Discussion of the Objections to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 7 and 11 as multiple dependent claims dependant upon another multiple dependent claim. Claim 11 is cancelled. Applicant has amended claim 7 to depend from a single base claim.

The Office Action objects to claim 2 indicating that “the first hinging point” and “the outside edge” lack antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 2 to depend from claim 14 which recites “a first hinging point” thereby providing antecedent basis for that term. Applicant submits that line 4 of claim 2 recites “an outside edge” thereby providing antecedent basis for later recitation of the “the outside edge.”

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, the objections to the claims are believed to be overcome.

Discussion of the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103

The Office Action rejects claim 1 as anticipated by Fujieda. It is unclear to Applicant whether claim 10 is actually rejected. Paragraph 3 of the Office Action indicates that claim 10 is rejected; while paragraph 9 indicates that the subject matter of claim 10 is allowable. In this reply, Applicant conservatively assumes that claim 10 is rejected but requests clarification in any future Office Action.

Fujieda discloses a display apparatus comprising a flexible display, which can be extended from a storage position by means of an extension unit 116. (See Fujieda, Figure 1). The extension unit 116 is operable using a projection 125. The extension unit 116 is arranged to engage with a cam. (See Fujieda, ¶ [0062]). Fujieda also discloses a foldable arm 130 to support display 120. When it is desired to place the flexible display to a storage position, it is required to disengage the projection 125 with the cam, after which the flexible display can automatically be rolled up about a suitable winding device arranged in a housing of the known device. However, Fujieda does not disclose any structure for generating opposing forces as claimed. Rather, the flexible display is kept in a viewing position by a cam locked

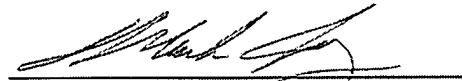
to the projection 125. Accordingly, Fujieda fails to disclose “extension structure comprises means for generating an extending force acting in an opposite direction with respect to a force driving a display towards the first position upon a transition towards the second position” as recited in claims 1 and 10. In addition, Fujieda does not disclose an extension structure arranged to balance the opposing forces acting on the flexible display in a second, extended position as also recited in claims 1 and 10. For at least these reasons, Fujieda does not disclose each and every element recited in claims 1 or 10 and, therefore, Applicant requests that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 8 as obvious over Fujieda in view of Failla. Claim 8 depends from claim 1. As generally discussed above, claim 1 recites an “extension structure” “for generating an extending force acting in an opposite direction with respect to a force driving a display towards the first position upon a transition towards the second position.” Fujieda and Failla fail to disclose such a structure. Moreover, neither Fujieda nor Failla provide *any reason* for a person skilled in the art to modify Fujieda to arrive at Applicant’s claimed invention. To the contrary, Fujieda teaches the person skilled in the art to use a cam for fastening the flexible display in the viewing position on one hand, and to abruptly roll it in for storage. Accordingly, Fujieda and Failla fail to teach the combination of features recited in claim 8 even when combined. For at least this reason, claim 8 is non-obvious over the references relied upon in the Office Action and Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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